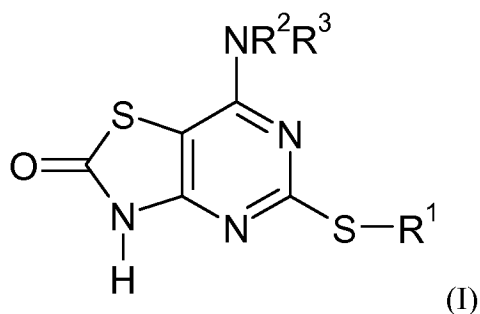


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or solvate~~ thereof:



in which

R¹ represents a C₃-C₇ carbocyclic, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:

- (a) halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$;
- (b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR⁸ and itself optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 -alkyl or halogen; or
- (c) a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each an aryl group or heteroaryl group each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

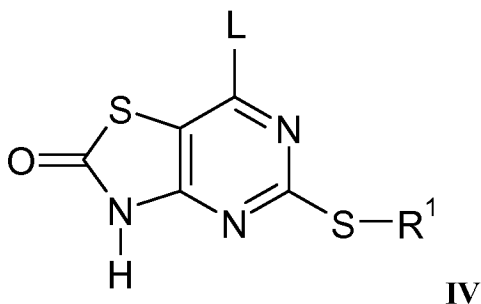
R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

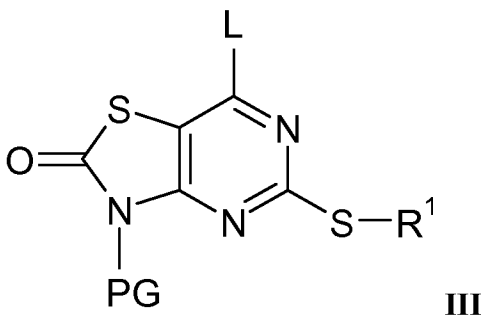
or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$; and each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group; which method comprises contacting

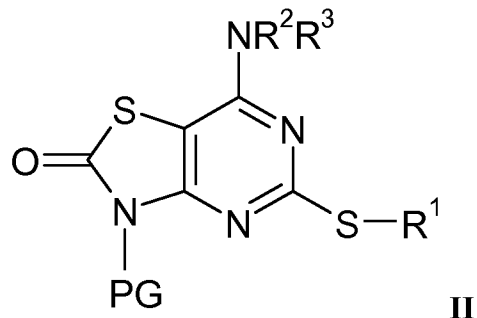


wherein L is a leaving group with a thiazole nitrogen protecting group reagent under appropriate reaction conditions to form a compound of the formula



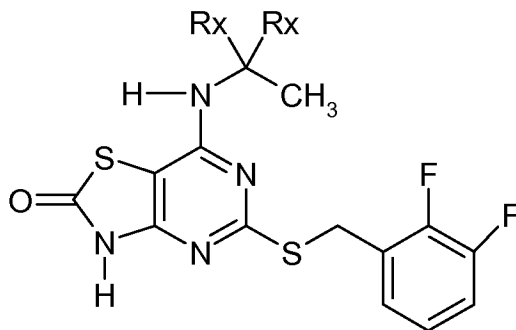
wherein PG is a protecting group, reacting the compound of formula III with an amine of formula HNR^2R^3

to form a compound of formula



and deprotection of the compound of formula II to give a compound of the formula I, and simultaneous or sequential conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

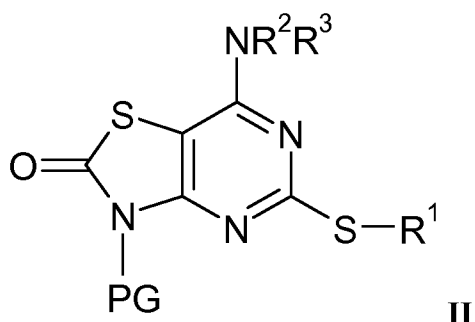
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted benzyl group.
3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein one of R² or R³ is hydrogen and the other is C₁-C₈ alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound compounds of the formula Ia



wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by hydroxy, amino, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-S-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-NHSO_2R$, or $-CONR_2$ and provided that both R^X are not hydrogen or amino.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 44 wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxymethyl, provided that both R^X are not hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and

R^1 represents a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:

- (a) halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$;
- (b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^8 and itself optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 -alkyl or halogen; or
- (c) a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each an aryl group or heteroaryl group each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

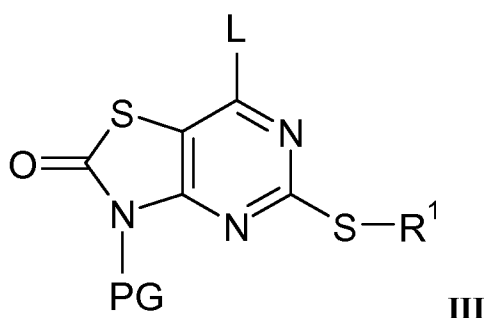
R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$;
each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group; and
PG is a protecting group.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and wherein

R^1 represents a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each ~~or an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be~~ optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

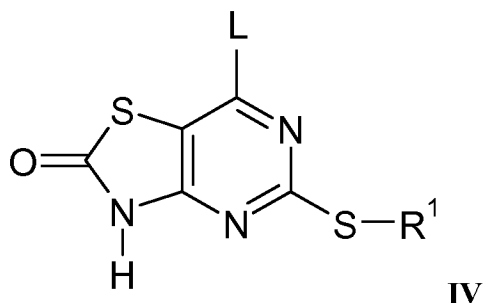
R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$;

each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group;

L is a leaving group; and

PG is a protecting group.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and wherein

R¹ represents a C₃-C₇ carbocyclic, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each ~~or an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be~~ optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R⁴ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹¹ and -NR¹²R¹³

R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆ alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹⁴ and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁵COR¹⁶, -SONR¹⁵R¹⁶, NR¹⁵SO₂R¹⁶

or

R⁵ and R⁶ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, -OR¹⁴, -COOR¹⁴, -NR¹⁵R¹⁶,

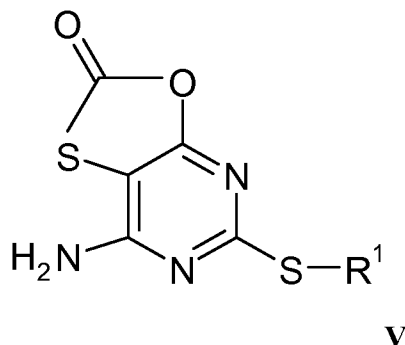
-CONR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁵COR¹⁶, -SONR¹⁵R¹⁶, NR¹⁵SO₂R¹⁶ or C₁-C₆ alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶ and -OR¹⁷ groups;

R¹⁰ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹⁷ and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶;

each of R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷ independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆ alkyl, or a phenyl group; and

L is a leaving group other than chlorine.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and wherein

R¹ represents a C₃-C₇ carbocyclic, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹ or a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O, wherein the phenyl group, the naphthyl group, and the 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl group are each an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$; and

each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group.

10. (Cancelled)